

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

determining whether a communication link is established between a modem and a network aggregation point;

visually indicating an existence of the communication link at a first location of the modem when the communication link is established;

determining whether a user of the modem is authorized to have access to an information service to be provided over the communication link; and

visually indicating an accessibility of the information service at a second location of the modem when the user of the modem is authorized to have access to the information service; and

extinguishing a visual indication of accessibility of the information service when the information service is not in operation.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

utilizing a first light emitting diode to indicate whether the communication link is established; and

utilizing a second light emitting diode to indicate accessibility of the information service ~~based on whether the user of the modem is authorized to have access to the information service.~~

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising executing a Point to Point Protocol over Ethernet client in connection with establishing the communication link.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising communicating a user credential to an authentication server to request access to the information service.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising communicating information from the information service to the modem via the network aggregation point.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the modem comprises a user interface having visual display capabilities.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the user interface comprises the first location and the second location.

8. (Cancelled).

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the modem comprises a digital subscriber line (DSL) modem.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the modem comprises a cable modem.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the network aggregation point comprises a cable modem termination system.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the network aggregation point comprises a digital subscriber line access multiplexer.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising disabling the visual indication of the existence of the communication link in response to recognizing a loss of the established communication link.

14. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

a display element coupled to a housing component, wherein the display element includes a visual display portion, and wherein the housing component at least partially defines an enclosure;

a broadband modem unit secured within the enclosure;

a link detection mechanism communicatively coupled to the broadband modem unit and operable to output a link signal in response to a determination that a communication link exists between the broadband modem unit and a network aggregation point;

a data detection mechanism operable to output an access signal in response to a recognition that a remote information service is accessible from the broadband modem unit when a user of the system is authorized to access the remote information service, the data detection mechanism operable to extinguish the access signal when the remote information service is not in operation;

a first indicator operable to be displayed within the display element in response to the link signal; and

a second indicator operable to be displayed within the display element in response to the access signal.

15. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 14, wherein the display element comprises a plurality of light emitting diodes within the visual display portion, and further wherein the first indicator comprises a first lighted one of the plurality of light emitting diodes and the second indicator comprises a second lighted one of the plurality of light emitting diodes.

16. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 14, wherein the broadband modem unit comprises a cable modem.

17. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 14, wherein the broadband modem unit comprises a digital subscriber line (DSL) modem.

18. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 14, further comprising a point to point protocol over Ethernet (PPPoE) client executing on a processor secured within the enclosure.

19. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

providing a subscriber with a broadband modem comprising a first indicator operable to display a connectivity status indicating whether a connection exists between the broadband modem and a network aggregation node and a second indicator operable to display a data status indicating whether the broadband modem has access to a remote information service node based on whether a user of the broadband modem is authorized to access the remote information service, the second indicator operable to indicate when the remote information service is not in operation; and
providing a broadband data service to the subscriber.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, further comprising:

receiving a trouble shooting request from the subscriber, the trouble shooting request relating to the broadband service; and
prompting the user to observe the first indicator and the second indicator.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20, further comprising:

receiving a communication indicating that the first indicator displays a positive connectivity status and the second indicator displays a negative data status; and
informing the subscriber that the remote information service is not in operation
~~determining an appropriate suggestion responsive to the trouble shooting request.~~

22. (Cancelled).